

[8 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) Enquiry system is yet to start, hence no earning estimates can be given at this stage.

(c) Yes, Sir.

### **Doubling of Konkan Railway track**

1909. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway Corporation has proposal to double the existing Konkan Railway tracks;

(b) the cost involved in the project;

(c) whether the corporation has approached Government for loan or financial assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

### **Gauge conversion in Himachal Pradesh**

1910. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of projects for conversion of narrow gauge line into broad gauge line are being taken up to provide access to backward, under-developed, hilly and remote areas of the country;

(b) the details of funds allocated to the Himachal Pradesh for conversion of narrow gauge line during the last five years;

(c) whether the work on project of conversion of narrow gauge line from Pathankot to Joginder Nagar has not been started, so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this project is likely to be taken up within the time limit stipulated for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Gauge conversion of existing Metre Gauge (MG)/ Narrow (NG) lines to Broad Gauge (BG) are taken up under Project Unigauge Since 1992 to develop alternative BG routes, establish new BG links, Minimize transshipment points and establish connection to ports, industrial centres and those required on strategic considerations. Apart from this, many projects have been taken up on socio-economic considerations.

(b) There has been no gauge conversion project in Himachal Pradesh and hence, no funds have been allocated.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The project has not been taken up for implementation due to unremunerative nature, heavy throwforward of ongoing projects and constraint of resources.

#### **Munabao-Khokrapar Rail Link**

†1911. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

DR. PRABHA THAKUR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procedure regarding running train between Munabao to Khokrapar has been completed;

(b) whether Government have received proposals regarding extension of Munabao-Khokrapar rail service to Ajmer via Jodhpur;

(c) if so, whether Government also propose to connect this rail service to the city of Garib Nawaz, Ajmer in near future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Thar Express between Munabao-Zero Point Railway Station has been introduced w.e.f. 18.02.2006. However, Thar Express and Jodhpur-Munabao Link Express have been cancelled for repairing of track damaged during floods and breaches at Kavas station (Barmer).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.